

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 4-7 are pending, Claim 1 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 5-7 having been amended by way of the present amendment.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's acceptance of Figure 1, as submitted with the response filed November 7, 2003.

In the outstanding Office Action Claim 4 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter; Claims 7 and 5-6 were rejected as being unpatentable over Ohtsuka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,162,740, hereinafter Ohtsuka).

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter in Claim 4. So as to bring the present prosecution to a close, Claims 5 and 6 have been drafted to depend from Claim 4 and therefore are believed to be allowable. Claim 7 has also been re-drafted to depend from Claim 4. It is believed that all the issues have been addressed by way of the present amendment. However, if the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that any remaining issues may be quickly brought to resolution.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and indication of allowable subject matter of Claim 4, it is believed that the present case is in condition for formal allowance. Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

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